



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(615) 313-4749 / OFFICE

## **DHS TO ADMINISTER SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM SPONSORS SOUGHT TO HELP FEED NEEDY CHILDREN**

**NASHVILLE, TN**--The Department of Human Services will administer Tennessee's federally funded Summer Food Service Program for the summer of 2004.

Each year state Human Services officials contract with local sponsors who are responsible for providing the free meals and snacks to children in needy areas. Last year, 49 agencies sponsored 1,155 sites at locations such as parks, recreation centers, schools, churches, playgrounds, residential camps and low-income housing complexes. These sponsors were reimbursed \$5.75 million for serving one or more meals to 45,000 children a day during the summer. A total of 3.4 million meals were served. However, this particular program reached only 9% of the approximately 521,000 children considered eligible for SFSP assistance. To serve more children, additional sponsors and sites are needed along with greater participation at existing serving locations.

Sponsorship of the program is available to public and private nonprofit school food authorities; state, county or municipal governments; public or private nonprofit colleges and universities participating in the National Youth Sports Program; residential public or private nonprofit summer camps; and nonprofit organizations.

Sponsors must agree to serve meals to all children in attendance regardless of their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. For information on sponsoring the SFSP, contact David Farmer or Doug Hutchison, preferably before March 31, 2004, at:

**Tennessee Department of Human Services  
Adult and Family Programs  
Citizens Plaza Building, 14th Floor  
400 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, Tennessee 37248-9500  
Telephone: (615) 313-4749**

The deadline for sponsors to submit applications is May 4, 2004.

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR  
400 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TN 37248  
615.313.4700

Congress established the Summer Food Service Program in 1968 to ensure that during school vacation needy children receive the same high quality, nutritious meals during the summer months when the National School Lunch Program is not in operation.

Children who participate in the program must be 18 years of age or younger. Persons over 18 years of age who are mentally or physically disabled and who participate in a public or private non-profit school program designed especially for them are also eligible to participate.

For more DHS news, visit our website at <http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/news.htm>

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